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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH LECTURE SERIES FOCUS ON WOMEN

The Friends of the Montana Historical Society offer a diverse look at the history of women and the roles they have played in shaping their communities and the state in their annual "March Lecture Series" at the Society.

The programs, which are held at noon on each Wednesday of March, range from founders and friends, to food of the gods, to women and prisons, to African American women in state history.

Admission is \$6 per lecture, or \$20 for a ticket to all four lectures with all proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Montana Historical Society and their programs.

For more information or to register, contact Katie Curry at 406-444-9553. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the events, space permitting.

Here are the programs for this year's lecture series:

March 5, "Founders and Friends: Helena Women and their Care of the Community," by Society historian Ellen Baumler – The talk will focus on Helena's early social institutions including orphanages, hospitals and schools that also played a role statewide. It focuses on women's roles in caring for the sick, teaching youth, mothering unwanted children and helping young women.

March 12, "Food of the Gods and Starvelings: The Selected Poems of Grace Stone Coates," by Rick Newby and Lee Rostad – These are remarkable poems about life in early day Montana. Rostad and Newby will talk about how they compiled the "irresistible, poignant and authentic" poems into a book of the works of the famous poet

from Martinsdale, which also is the home of Rostad. They will read poems and talk about her life.

March 19, "Women's Corrections in Montana 1871 to 1979; Sugar 'n Spice and Everything Not So Nice," by KC May Sackman – Sackman, who is collections manager of the Old Prison Museum in Deer Lodge, will talk about the history and theory of female prisons in the Montana and the United States. Government did not create equal facilities and programs for women compared to men, and the talk will focus on how female prisoners were treated.

March 26, "African-American Women in Montana History," by Society preservation historian Kate Hampton – Hampton, who is directing a major new Society effort to identify Black history resources in Montana, will talk about the lives of four black women who lived in Montana, and the Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in the state. The personalities profiled in the talk represent different aspects of the African-American experience in the state through the early twentieth century.